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Plays, Poems,
Stories
AND
Sayings



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Plays, Poems,
Stories
AND
Sayings



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THE MERRY MASQUERADERS.

(M. McD. Cobb, Author, May, 1916.

Jack and his sister Flossie.

Arthur and his sisters Marie and Clara.

Tightwad and his sister.

Marie and Tightwad were sweethearts.

Jack and Flossie visit Marie and Clara to invite them to go masquerading. They accept the invitation. Jack and Flossie leave, asking them to call by that night and join them at their house, before visiting Tightwad and his sister. After they leave Marie gets busy—goes shopping and buys three masks, also some large flowered curtain goods to make her brother Arthur's suit to wear that night, while Marie and Clara wore suits belonging to their brother. Later they are dressed up ready to go—they get on street car and get off at Jack's and his sister's house. They have music and dancing and entertain friends who were there, tho the masqueraders were a surprise to them. They decide to call on Mr. Tightwad and his sister, which they did. It was a surprise to them also, but they enjoyed music and dancing, and as they left Mr. Tightwad's house, Marie forgets herself and kisses Mr. Tightwad's sister good-bye, not thinking about her clothes being a mans. Mrs. Tightwad (his mother) said Maria was no gentleman (which was too true) and Mr. Tightwad's sister was terrified, thinking a man had kissed her. Tightwad followed them, saying he was going to find out who the fresh kid was and give him a thrashing. Marie—in disguised voice told him to go on back home and they would settle it next day. Tightwad would not give in. Marie ran, but he followed her to her own door, when she unmasked and told him she would never forgive him or go with him any more, and that she would get even with him. He begged forgiveness. She went into the house slamming the door in his face, while he stands out there. Tightwad married later, so did Marie to a Mr. Griffin and this is how she got even ten years later.

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MAY 31 1916

Mrs. Griffin, (a colored white woman) and her daughter Elsie.

Mr. Tightwad, Mrs. Griffin's former beau.

Mrs. McDonald, music teacher.

Arthur McDonald, Mrs. Griffin's brother.*

Aunt Tildy, the cook.

The maid at Mr. McDonald's—Jane.

Mrs. Griffin's husband leaves home for an auto ride. Mrs. Griffin plans to visit Mrs. McDonald's studio in disguise to see how her daughter Elsie was progressing in music. Mrs. Griffin phones to Mrs. McDonald and tells of her plan to visit her studio, saying she would be disguised as an old colored woman. Mrs. McD. answers phone. Mrs. Griffin phones her brother Arthur McD. and tells of her plans to visit his home that P. M. in disguise. Mrs. G. after finishing her phoning tells her cook, Tildy, she wanted to borrow one of her dresses and old fly bonnet. She goes home, bringing clothes back in basket, gives them to Mrs. G. and hopes they'll fit her.

Mrs. Griffin tells Tildy to go get all the eggs in the nests. Mrs. G. dresses in cook's dress and bonnet and blacks her face and hands, and Tildy comes in with about a dozen eggs. Mrs. Griffin tells Tildy to go get some cotton seed to fill the basket with. Mrs. G. has basket most full of cotton seed and puts the eggs on top so as to look like a basket full of eggs. Then Mrs. G. puts on bonnet, pulling it low over her eyes she looks in the mirror once more then tells Tildy if Mr. Griffin should come before her return to tell him to join her at her brother's A. McDonald.

Out Mrs. Griffin goes looking like an old darkey for sure. She struts like a proud old coon till she met by chance her old beau, Mr. Tightwad, just leaving his home, looking around at Mrs. G. and she fearing he might recognize her. She walks mighty lame in one foot. Mr. Tightwad says auntie, how much do you want for those eggs if I take the whole basketfull. Mrs. G. says anything boss—a little sumthin' to eat will do. Mr. T. tells auntie (Mrs. G.) to wait at the gait and he will go in and see if there's anything to eat left from dinner. Mrs. G. (after Mr. Tightwad

gets out of sight)—skedaddles as fast as she can run down the street and around the corner, when an old colored man made goo goo eyes at her and walked up to her and says to Mrs. G. where are you going with those eggs. Mrs. G. takes an egg and chunked him with it, saying its none of your business. About that time she was near the studio. Mrs. G. knocks at studio. Mrs. McD. comes to door. Mrs. G. bows gracefully and asked Mrs. Mc. D. if she didn't want to buy her basket of eggs. Mrs. McD. says she does not today. Mrs. G. asked Mrs. McD. to let that little girl play some and she would dance for her. Mrs. McD. tells Elsie to play a piece for the colored woman, which she does, and said it shore was good music—thank you little Miss—and says good bye.

Mr. Tightwad comes out of his house and looks up the street—having a plate of something to give Auntie. He looks again and wonders where Auntie got to. He sees her afar off and she was crossing the street nearly in front of Mr. McDonald's house, and walks up pretty fast to catch her. Mr. Griffin comes riding in auto nearly running over Mrs. Griffin. He thought she was a colored woman. Mr. Griffin gets out of auto to go in Mr. McDonald's house and spoke to Auntie. Mr. Tightwad walks up to Mr. Griffin and spoke about the eggs and asked her to wait and he would see her later. Mr. Tightwad and Mr. Griffin go on in Mr. McDonald's house and into the parlor to visit and play cards with some vistirors who had gone to spend the P. M. Mrs. (Tildy) G. rings door bell. The maid goes to the door and knowing about the disguise tells Mrs. Griffin to come into the tea room where they were serving hot chocolate. Mr. McDonald tells his company this is old Aunt Tildy and can out dance any coon in town and Mrs. McD. asked Aunt Tildy (Mrs. G.) to dance some for them and show them if its so. Aunt Tildy (Mrs. G.) dances like a real coon. When she stops Mrs. McD. pours her a cup of hot chocolate. Aunt Tildy drinks it—smacks her lips and says that sho' am good coffee. Mr. Tightwad asked (Mrs. G.) Aunt Tildy if she had sold those eggs. She says no honey—wait till I come in with the eggs. Mrs. G. goes out, washes up and

dresses in evening dress, takes basket of eggs in the parlor and says to Mr. Tightwad, there are the eggs and the same woman who danced like a coon, I will make you a present of them. All looked surprised. Mrs. G. said it was a joke. Mr. Tightwad exits—has important business to attend to at once. Meets her next day and dodges her.

The End.

WIN FOR WILSON AND PEACE.

In view of the lateness of the hour,
I shall omit questions of the day,
As time strengthens friendships power.
When lost in darkness we greet the day
When Woodrow Wilson always right and never wrong,
Rules with might, till the voice of God
Bears record of Peace restored.
For we need him, we need him,
We'll take him by the hand;
No weapon formed against him
Will ever pierce his hand.
Peace shall thy officers be
'Till brass turns to gold—
To bring our brothers home and peace to Mexico,
For we need him, we need him.
We'll take him by the hand;
No weapons formed against him
Shall ever reach our happy land.
For he that overcometh shall rule with mighty hand.
Then make bare thine arm, extend the reign of Peace
And make our scattered remnant an inspiration
Never to cease: And let your votes be for Wilson,
~~Never to cease: And let your votes be for Wilson~~
And Peace! Peace! Peace!
For we need him, we need him,
We'll take him by the hand;
No weapon formed against him
Shall ever pierce his hand.

RALLY FOR WILSON.

Every time I go away,
You can hear the good folk say:
We don't want any Bull Moose or Teddy Bear.
You'd better look ahead and prepare,
Than look back and regret.
All our neighbors are young married folk—
I sometimes think with great regret,
What might have been but isn't yet.
We want to live to see the day,
All our boys will work as well as play;
For foodstuffs so high, we must grow,
More plump spring chickens for Woodrow.

SAYINGS.

If you ever get caught in a matrimonial noose
Don't blame me. Haven't you any close relations?

* * *

Sweetheart of mine, won't you be mine?
I've decided to propose in the summer time.

* * *

I'll be yours since you suggested it, but if I don't turn
out to be all you expected of me,
You'll have to blame yourself.

* * *

Matrimony sho am de proper life for folks,
My husband keeps plenty chickens on hand,
But I'm mighty skeered he's gwine ter get ketched at it.

* * *

If you want to rise in this world and make a name for
yourself

Go sit on a tack, and if you don't rise again you're a dead
one.

If you build your nest near a hornets nest, don't blame
me if you get stung, but show me.

* * *

If you don't want to be shocked in this world shut your
eyes, stop your ears and don't sit on a live wire,
For if you do, you'll never rise again.

THE PRODIGAL GIRL.

They picture his Father with pardoning power,
His welcome to the Prodigal son,
But what about the Prodigal girl?
She may return, but he shuts the door in her face,
Her sins are not forgiven, society scoffs at her name.
Like Father, like son, he only inherited his shame
And if you're no angel yourself, the poor girl isn't to
blame.

Then open wide the bolted door, judge not, be merciful
and just,

And when you meet Saint Peter at the Gate
Don't expect him to turn you in,
unless you have asked pardon for your sin,
Against your daughter, at your gate.
Don't let it be said with tears and sighs—
That the pardon came too late.

What if that voice you should hear no more
Saying, Father, dear Father, open the door,
Father, dear Father kiss me ere I go:
Little did I think when I returned to you
I would find a bolted door, and no home,

MINNIE'S MISTAKE.

The first mistake I ever made, the day that I was born,
I danced upon my papa's knee.

At four years old I walked on papa's toes,
Instead of walking on my own.

At six, I sat upon my papa's knee and pinched all who
tried to sit upon his lap.

At seven my papa takes a nap,
And with great big seissors, I did crap
Just one side of his mustache—and,

When he awoke and kissed me, it didn't feel so bad on
my face—but

When he looked into the glass, and saw what I had done,
he went and cut a great big switch,

But it didn't hurt my face—you bet—
For the next thing I knew he was kissing me with some-
thing that never had any mustache.

He used a knife to cut it with, and when he started to
kiss me again, I didn't kiss much,

But I sure did run—you bet!

THE SNEER' MY DEAR.

There is not so much in what you say, my dear,
As in the way you say it.

There's many sneers ending with, **My Dear**,
If you could only understand them.

When you chunk a poor hungry dog my dear,
Pray don't chunk him with a bone.

If you have no meat to give, my dear,
Take a lesson from the dog and leave home.

And if your neighbor has no meat to give,
How would you like a bone?

When next you see a poor hungry dog
Plodding all alone, if you have nothing to give,
Just pat him on the head, give a word of cheer
For it won't cost you half as much in the end.

God bless you; And if you think the poor dog has gone
his length in sin,

And you should meet St. Peter and he lets **You** in,
Waste **no time** but go back and **ask**—

Why he let you in? He knows—yes, He knows.

He came into this world to save sinners,

And had you not been a sinner too,

He would not have saved you.

He saves by **grace**—as he has saved you

And not by aught that you can do.

Jesus saves, yes, Jesus saves.

O, YE BITTER WINDS.

I dare to open mine eyes
Just for the merest peep:
The lids would not obey
My will to open them more.
The voice of love is calling us
From the wilderness;
Shall we go to meet it
With eyes cruelly shut
Till our lips are frozen over?
We float in a heavenly vision,
While our friends ridicule and discredit us,
Stay at a distance and slander us—
Stay in the sunshine where its less trouble to be good;
While under the clouds and shadows,
The fairest flowers grow, unwithered,
To deck the grave of dearest friend or foe.
Then, O, ye friends and bitter winds,
Welcome the flowers, we are your friends
Till dust to dust—our journey ends,

THE SOLDIER BOY AND HIS LOCK OF GRAY.

Picture a home with the ivy creeping round,
Picture the gloom when Jack is not around;
Weeping, sad and alone, hoping it won't be long
Before Jack's footsteps I hear upon
The doorsteps his boyhood knew.
Return to my arms, my brave sad heart:
You have carelessly wandered where I did not know.
Like a rose I'll still remain to die among the thorns.
The voice of dread—the pebbles may flow,
But with the courage that never dies,
Down the hilly rock strewn way,
May God's angels guide and bless you,

In your suit of gray.

I have just received a letter, and Jack went on to say:
Mother, sister and sweetheart dear, bid your fears and
doubting cease.

Sweet peace has come, we do not fear the foe.
We are marching on to victory; we are marching home.
We will rest where the steps of Jesus end at his throne;
For there's no place on earth like, Home, Sweet Home.
We'll never say good-bye again to go on foreign shore;
And tho' thrice lost and wounded in the fray,
Next to my heart I still wear—

Mother's little Lock of Gray.

LIFE'S LAST TOKEN.

Briefly, I will tell you the story of two loving hearts:
The odds were against us, the dice were loaded true;
We were chaff in the tempest.
To-night I am lonely, sad and blue,
For I'm thinking sweetheart of you.
My one love who sleeps over the river
Far away, there in the graveyard they laid her,
Under the weeping willow and white stone,
She's resting, with the kiss of blessed peace upon her
brow.

Her parting smile, she wears it still,
It was her answer to my promise.
Bless her trusting soul, she had faith
That we shall meet again,
Among the flowers and the wildwood,
In a home among the stars.
Will she know me as she knew me
In the days when we were young?
She promised and I will meet her
As when we parted; and she shall know me
As she knew me, in the days when we were young.
When first her burning cheek fell limp against my own,
I kissed her in her shining hair, and spoke the words
That shall stand **unmoved** against the wrath of Man:
"I will be true!"—She is waiting for me,
And I am going home.

DID SHE DO RIGHT TO MARRY.

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough.
In youth it sheltered me—
And I'll protect it now.

Mother feels the loss of the girl since she married, but she should spare that tree; if it needs the waters of life which she can not give, it will wither and fade away.

Dear mother, you feel the loss keenly, but suppose the girl should pine away, or lose her health, so she can't take care of you, who will take care of her? And if she marries, who will take care of you, you ask. Bear with the girl, and she will bear with you; she is the judge, tho' you are her mother, there are times you do not and cannot feel for her.

When an apple is ripe, it will fall to the ground, the tree doesn't blame the apple—and do you?

It is better that some one picks up the apple, than let the worms eat it. It is better for an apple to fall to the ground, than to be knocked off the tree when its green.

When an apple falls of its own accord, its either good to eat or worm eaten; and if its not worm eaten, the seed of the good apple will grow more trees.

Dear mother, the tree never should think hard of the apple for falling, for it would do the tree no good if it stayed on the limb, and when it falls to the ground it does the tree no harm. So remember the future needs more trees. God will take care of you.

THE TRIALS OF A WIDOW.

(Copyrighted by M. Me. D. Cobb.)

Characters:

Mr. Harper.

Mrs. Harper and her mother.

Mina—her father's favorite—8 years old.

Bessie—her mother's favorite—5 years old.

Elsie—oldest daughter—11 years old.

Carl—the baby—2 years old.

Supt. of Orphans Home—Dr. White.

Rev. Lyon.

The Harpers live in a lovely country home. Mr. Harper runs a country store and a large farm. He hires a musician from Texas—named Pat. They entertain friends in the oak grove, benches under each tree, also a long table full of melons and fruits. Mr. Harper receives a telegram saying his father was dead. He goes to the funeral, leaving the others to enjoy the evening. When Mr. Harper starts back home, the tide is up, and the bridge under water, so he left his horse on the other side of the creek and had to swim across. The effects of the tiresome trip home, laid him up: he was taken with typhoid fever. Pat returns to Texas. Six weeks later Mr. Harper died, all the children were out at play and the nurse goes out and tells them their father is dead. They all come in and kiss his face. Mina says Papa don't die now, and pulls his hand. He doesn't move, so she wept bitterly, and wouldn't go to see her papa put in the ground. Mrs. Harper sends for her mother—she came. Next day they missed Mina. Her grandmother heard her behind the barn, and went to look her, and Mina was laying flat on her face telling her papa that no one petted her since he left—and begs "Papa please come back." Then her grandma slips up, seeing Mina, asked her what she was doing, she said she was talking to papa loud so he could hear. Mina gets up and goes into the house with grandma's arm around her. A day or two after Mr. Harper's death, Mrs. Harper excused her maid and cook,

and then goes visiting. Mrs. Harper and her mother and nurse take the baby and all go to visit Judge Russell's home, about a mile away, and left Mina and Elsie at home. While Mrs. Harper was away, a terrific storm arose, and lightning flashed and everything was darkened. Elsie and Mina had never seen such a sight before, as their mother always put them to bed when a cloud arose, and they slept till it was over; never knowing anything about it. They were terrified and thought the bad man had come, and both hid themselves in a large box till it was over. When they went out in the yard they saw a large tree had been blown down, and wondered how it happened. Mrs. Harper and Mother, nurse and baby returned after the storm, and asked Elsie and Mina what they did when the storm came up. They told her, and she was right much amused at the idea. Next day Mrs. Harper calls the servants and tells them she won't need them any more after to-morrow as she was going to break up house keeping and go live with her mother. Furniture is all packed up. They bade the servants good-bye, and rode away in a carriage. Arrive at destination. Mrs. Harper's sister meets them as they all came in. Months pass. Mrs. Harper teaches school and was a strict teacher. She sends Mina out after some switches. She tried them on her own legs to see if they hurt. She found one about a foot long and took it to her mother, and Mrs. Harper slaps her and tells her to go sit down—calls Elsie to her and says go get some switches. She brought an armful as large as she could get, she thought her mother wouldn't use them on that account. Takes them to her mother—they suit, and Mrs. Harper says put them in the corner, and all the children behave that never behaved before. School is up. Mrs. Harper takes vacation with relatives. When she returned she found out her sister had whipped Elsie and Mina both, to be sure she whipped the right one for breaking the comb. So, Mrs. Harper was angry. She made arrangements to send them to an Orphans Home. Mrs. Harper's uncle sent some cloth to make the children some clothes. Mrs. Harper promptly returns it, saying she needed none of his assistance. So Elsie and

Mina were leaving for orphans home. Mrs. Harper pins a card on each one, with name and destination written thereon. Good-byes are said. Dr. White met them at destination. It was snowing furiously. They were given their room. Their clothes which were very nice were taken from them, and they were given plain dresses and gingham aprons. Their hair was cut first thing. Mina didn't like for so many strange looking girls to be gazing at her, and she goes and hides under the bed, holds her breath and tries to die, but couldn't. Next day she was missed and couldn't be found; she had climbed up some steps by the dome that reached the top of the building and stayed as long as she wanted to. When she came down her teacher asked her why her dress was so rusty. She told her she had been on top of the house, the tin was rusty. They always pick at a new girl till they are made to quit. They picked and teased Mina until she made up her mind to put a stop to it. She took a broom-stick and beat every one that messed with her. They go and tell the teacher, and she asked Mina about it, and told Mina she didn't blame her. As the teacher was an old school mate of Mina's mother she didn't go under the bed or on the house top any more, for they were glad to let her alone. After that Mina was her teacher's pet. That night the teacher takes Mina to spend the night in her own room. She stayed a few night in the teacher's room, then made up her mind to not do so any more, as she didn't like for the teacher to play with her curly head. The next night the teacher comes upstairs to get Mina to sleep with her again and she gets in bed, and pretends to be asleep. The next night she heard the teacher coming up stairs for her again. Mina ran and jumped in bed with clothes and shoes on, and the slats all fell in, still Mina pretends to be sound asleep. The teacher couldn't wake her, so went down stairs, then Mina got up and fixed the slats by the help of another girl. A few days later the teacher resigned, and Mina was so glad, she laughed until she cried, and as the tears were falling, the teacher saw her and asked her why she was crying. She says because you are going to leave. She pats Mina's head and kisses her good-bye and goes to

the depot, while Mina was crying for dear life. Mina and Mattie, her bed mate, made a plan to take it by turns to make the bed up and when it was Mina's time to make up the bed Mattie wouldn't get up until the prayer bell rang, and they both were demerited. Mina got tired of this and after that pulled Mattie out of bed by the hair until she broke her of the habit. As the teacher inspects the rooms while the children eat breakfast, they had to be in order. But Mina and Mattie were good friends after that.

One day Mina was sick and the teacher refused to excuse her from school, so Mina planned a way—she would take a stran of hair from the girls head who sat in front of her, and pull just enough to make it itch so she would scratch. The teacher saw her scratching, so said she would have head combing that morning, and every one caught scratching their head was told to stay in while the rest were excused. The matron left the kitchen awhile to sit out in the cool breeze, and seeing Mina close by, told her to go tell the girl in the kitchen to baste the beef. Mina went straight for the sewing room and asked for the largest needle they had and a coarse stran of thread, not saying what she wanted with it. She goes in the kitchen and lays the needle down on the table and waited a minute, and told the girl to baste the beef. She opened the stove and mopped it and shut the stove door and then sat down, and Mina says, why don't you baste the beef. She told Mina she had just done so, saying didn't you see me—Mina then learned the first stitch.

A year passed—warm weather and time to have hair cutting. Mina stays out of the way and keeps her hair pinned close to her head so her hair won't be noticed. Next day Mina was thirteen years old. The singing class was gotten up to tour the State, and Mina was one of them. An old maid accompanied them on the trip. Every where they go, people ask who the curly headed girl was, because she was very beautiful, red cheeked and had big blue eyes. The class were returning back to the Orphans Home, but as they gave their last performance and were at the depot, a boy sent Mina his card with his name on it. The teacher saw

it and tares it up. She sent for a barber to go to the hotel and has Mina's hair cut. And as he had cut only one side of her hair, she jumped out of the chair and runs, then decided to let him finish. They go to the train and for the Orphans Home—the tour was ended. Some months later Rev. Mr. Lyon came to the orphans home to find a girl to adopt and chose Mina. Dr. White wrote Mrs. Harper about it. She answered and says, when she leaves there send her to me, but said Mina could go stay awhile, and she did.

Mina was met at the station by Mr. Lyon and taken to his home in a carriage. Mrs. Lyon met her and made her acquainted with the six children, all boys but the baby. The next morning they had family prayer in the dining room, the two oldest boys came down the stairsteps with their shoes in their hand and eyes half open and go sit down for prayers and no longer that Amen was said—those boys were fussing and fighting. After breakfast Mrs. Lyon and Mina go in the garden and pick snaps and tomatoes for dinner. After dinner Mrs. Lyon takes a ride. Two oldest children at school. Mina takes two youngest children out to walk and one, 6 years old, said a bad word and Mina told Mrs. Lyon on her return. Mrs. Lyon gets a cloth and wets it and puts pepper and salt on it and rubs the child's tongue off, but it done no good. She put him in the closet and that did no good. A week or two passed and Mrs. Lyon tore up an old dress of hers and made Mina a dress. It made Mina feel bad to think of it. Mina goes to the church and dusts off all the seats. Another week passes. Mrs. Lyon goes for a drive and leaves Mina home with the children. Mina is homesick. She found a stamped envelope and wrote her mother how she was treated and Mrs. Harper was very angry to find out her daughter was treated as a servant. She wrote Dr. White to send Mina home. He answered and said she could not go until her time was out. Mina goes back to the orphans home. Her duty was to clean up the parlor as teacher's beau was coming that P. M. There was a nice fire in the heater. Mina puts some pepper on it to see if they wouldn't sneeze. She heard them coming and gets behind the piano. The teacher sneezes,

and decided to go out in the fresh air. Mina comes out. Study hour bell rang, so she runs up stairs to school room. Several days later Mina was cleaning and dusting the parlor. Dr. White's wash-woman came to get her pay and she asked Mina if Dr. White was in his office. Mina replied that he was.

The colored woman went to the office door and peeped through the keyhole in the door, and saw Dr. White kissing one of the teachers. She points finger at Mina to come here and whispered For de Lords sake honey look what dem white folks is doin. Mina peeps, looks around at Auntie, then starts to look again and Dr. White opens the door and caught Mina peeping. The teacher left.

Dr. White calls Mina in the office and gives her a lecture to never let him catch her peeping again. He appoints another girl to clean up the parlor and sends Mina to stay in the dining room to slice bread and help wash dishes. A week later she was put in the kitchen to help and the other girl in the kitchen kept going in the bakery and running on with the boy who baked the light bread, so Mina kept telling her to come out and Mina went in with a stick and made her come out, and told the matron about it.

Mrs. Harper wrote to Dr. White if Mina had gone back and he answered that she had, and that she had been mighty smart. Shortly Mina was invited to a picnic by a girl in town. She asked Dr. White to let Mina go, so he consented. They go and enjoy themselves. Some fish while Mina was walking on an old mill wheel and it turned and Mina went down in the water up to her neck. She went to the girls home and dried her clothes. A week later Dr. White then decided to let Mina go home. The mail boy brought a letter from Mrs. Harper's brother with a check for Mina's ticket, and she jumps for joy. All the girls gather around Mina and don't want her to leave. That night several sat up with Mina until midnight and cry and talk. Next morning they wouldn't let Mina clean up her room, the girls did it for her, and at prayer service they sang this song:

Good-bye, good-bye, we hope again to meet you. May

Christ our Saviour lead us in heavenly pastures, feed us, and bring us home no more to roam forever more to lead us.

Good-bye, good-bye, we hope again to meet you.

After breakfast Mina played several games of croquet before going to depot. Mina arrived home after a nine hours ride, and was met by her uncle and sister. Mother and brother meet them at the door. Mina never was so happy—she wanted to take a look all over the house and did, and as her mother looks up at the clock it was twenty minutes past seven. Her mother says to Mina, its the hour that you were born. They have supper at once which was enjoyed the most by Mina, as she got one more bait of milk. After supper they go into the parlor and look at pictures in the album, and Bessie plays the piano and sings. Mina sings a song, "Thou art drifting," that she sung at the orphans home. Mina was happy, her mother took her out driving next day. Soon she discovered her mother was partial to Bessie. Bessie left to spend the summer with relatives.

Mrs. Harper missed some jewelry and went home close behind the cook and saw the jewelry box on her dresser, so she turns her off. Mina then tries the cooking. Takes her mother's breakfast up to her room every morning, and a hot foot-bath for her mother every night. Her mother goes for early morning ride for her health. Soon Bessie came home from her visit and she and her mother go to ride after dinner. Next day Bessie accepted a position as saleslady. On Sunday P. M. Mina, Bessie and Carl go to Sunday school, their mother is out riding and passed them on their way back home, two boys came along from church with them and as soon as they get into the parlor and take their seats Carl started to play for the boys to sing, when Mrs. Harper drove up and went to the parlor door and pointed her finger at Mina and says take yourself upstairs, then points to Bessie and says, take yourself upstairs. They went and mother gets bible and goes right up stairs too and gives them several chapters to read and locks them up in the room, and goes down. She gave her son a stern look and his companions left. Then Mrs. Harper gets a whip and starts for Carl and he runs around the house and climbs

upon the top of the kitchen and was not found. Next morning Bessie asked Carl to hitch the horse up and take her to her work, as the colored boy had not arrived. He refused and told her to get on the street car. Bessie goes up to her mothers room and tells her about it. She sent for Carl and Mina to come up to her room. They went and Mrs. Harper with a buggy whip in her hand points it at Carl and says, the next time Bessie tells you to hitch up you do it, then pulls a stool chair up to her, tells him to come there. He does and she says take hold of the rounds of the chair with both hands. He did. Then she tells Mina to hold his hands. She barely touches them, hoping her brother would run, but he took it like a man and never flinched. Then Mrs. Harper says to Carl, now go down and hitch up. He does, and takes Bessie to the store. Several days later Mrs. Harper has Bessie to quit clerking, as her feet hurt after standing on them all day. Later Mrs. Harper takes Bessie up town shopping and buys her some new slippers and sashes. after they leave, Mina weeps and moans like her heart would break, to think she had to wear her mothers old shoes, and the girls would make fun of her at Sunday school because she wore Bessie's clothes, and had no sash at all, but one and it was narrow and a small bow behind. Mina straightens her face before her mothers return. Mrs. Harper returns. She and Bessie were admiring their purchase. Mina stood by looking on wishfully, but not saying a word. Mrs. Harper tells Mina to go fix supper. Next P. M. Mina was sitting on the front porch reading a paper and had a pencil in her hand. An insurance agent passed who liked Mina's looks and came up to the porch, standing on the outside and spoke to Mina. Mina wanted him to go on, so wrote on a piece of paper and said mother is near. As he turns around to leave her mother is in the door, and comes and picks up the paper and says, what is this? Mina says its a song I know. Her mother says I'd like to see it. Write it off for me. She did. Here it is:

Rockaby baby in the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock,

When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall,
Then down will come, husaby cradle and all.
Then rockaby, rockaby, mother is near,
Then rockaby, rockaby, nothing to fear,
For angels of heaven are hovering near,
Then rockaby baby, **Mother is near.**

Mother returns and asked if she had written the song. Mina handed it to her to read. She read it and was satisfied. She tells Mina to go feed the goldfish and canary. She did, and puts canary in the dining room window for a sun bath, and went to fix supper. Soon a stray cat jumps in the window, knocks the cage out of the window and canary gets out, so Mrs. Harper has hysterics and raises Cain with Mina. Next day Mina and Bessie go to take their music lessons and on their return home Mina sprains her ankle. Bessie won't wait for her, and gets home before Mina does. When Bessie arrives home she goes stright to her mother's room. Her mother asked why she got home first. She said Mina couldn't keep up with her, and never said a word about her sprained ankle. So when Mina came, her mother chastises her for not being home sooner, and never lets her explain. Mina goes down stairs, and as she and Bessie were in their room changing clothes, Mina was angry at Bessie for causing her mother to fuss with her, and took her corset and gave Bessie a few licks with it. Bessie ran up stairs and told her mother. She sent for Mina and said she had better never put the weight of her finger on Bessie again.

Next day a poor woman came in with some peanut candy she made to sell, and wanted to buy a quart of milk for her sick mother. Mina goes and brings a pitcher full, and gave it to her and refused pay. Bessie steps in and runs up as she received the milk and takes some candy for pay, but Mina never said a word for fear it would cause trouble.

One day Mrs. Harper missed a gold piece of money and lays it to Mina, but after awhile it was found in Bessie's trunk.

Next day Prof. Black calls on Mrs. Harper to know if

she will send one of her daughters to his college. Mrs. Harper decides to send Bessie. Prof. left. News gets out that Bessie was going away and a girl friend knowing how strict Mrs. Harper was, plans to give a ball and call it a candy pulling. Agnes calls at Mrs. Harpers and invites Mina and Bessie to her home that P. M. for tea, saying they would have a candy pulling afterward. Mrs. Harper gave her consent and Mina and Bessie leave with Agnes. After tea the secret was disclosed that they were going to a ball instead. They go, and time passes quickly, and as they had promised to be home at 10 o'clock. Mina frequently asked the time but no one tells the correct time, always saying it was early yet, until it was 11:30 when they left, their uncle had come to accompany them home. Arriving at home they found all the doors locked and they tried to get in the kitchen window, and as they were getting in knocked over pots and pans, making a loud noise and the dog barks and wakes Mrs. Harper. She comes down and found out why they were so late, and goes back up stairs to bed. At 2 A. M. Mina was awakened by a loud breathing and chewing right at her head, and was frightened. She feels of Bessie's eyes to see if she is awake and pinches and pulls, then feels her eyes again, they were opened. Mina eases off the bed, pulling Bessie, she follows, and up stairs they flew to tell their mother. Mrs. Harper came down with pistol in her hand, goes to the room and turns on the light, to find the cows head in the window that opened in the bathroom and the bathroom door which opened in back yard had been left open. Mrs. Harper goes back to her room. The girls come down and go to sleep, to wake up next A. M. to find out a real burglar had been and had stolen a ham and a tub of sausage, and left every door down stairs wide open.

Mrs. Harper gives farewell reception the night before Bessie went away. She arrives at college next P. M. and writes home for canvas and paint as she was taking art lessons. It was sent at once. A month later Bessie writes for new slippers. Mrs. Harper sends them. Bessie receives and opens them, and slams the slippers down on the floor, saying she didn't want cat fish toes. She sent for more,

They were received. They were raisor toes—they suited. Soon Bessie receives a letter from mother saying, Mina was to be married. Bessie answers at once and says don't let her get married. Mrs. Harper decides to break it up. A letter came for Mina, and her mother reads and burns it at once, and wrote and said Mina had changed her mind about marrying you and is engaged to another. He thought it true, so wrote no more. Mina watches for the postman and wonders why she can't hear from him.

The week before Bessie's return from College Mrs. Harper visits a sculptor and gives him Bessie's photograph with orders to make a wax figure just like it. Bessie at college one hot night takes her music lesson in her "night-tie." She hears teacher and her beau coming and she slips behind the piano; teacher heard her snicker and looks behind the piano and saw her in her gown so she and beau go for a walk, while Bessie resumes her lessons. The day before Bessie's return from college, Mrs. Harper and Mina in a carriage goes to the sculptors. Mrs. Harper goes in and pays him and has the figure securely wrapped, and has it put in the carriage and warns Mina to be careful with it. She didn't know what it was, but said nothing. That night Mrs. Harper sends a little round table and a screen into the parlor and takes the figure and places it on the table with a white veil hanging over it. All this time Mina was fixing supper and didn't know until next A. M. while her mother was gone to the depot to meet Bessie, Mina took a look into the parlor, and was much surprised and grieved to know her mother paid so much for idols, instead of buying her some nice clothes.

Mrs. Harper and Bessie arrive from depot. Bessie and Mina embrace. Bessie takes a bath, changes her clothes, and her mother invites her into the parlor to sing the song "Calvary," that she sang in church Sunday before she went to college and as Bessie sings the last sentence, "I will not forsake thee tho all else should flee," her mother is crying—as they turn around to leave the parlor Mrs. Harper removes the screen that hid the figure and Bessie was pleasantly surprised and kisses her mother. Next P. M. mother

and daughters go to Ocean View and met an old acquaintance who made them acquainted with a travelling man named Chase, who represented the weekly Paladium. Next day he calls at Mrs. Harper's and found the girls were gone. He tells Mrs. Harper he loved Mina at first sight, and wanted to marry her. She consented and said she would tell Mina of his intentions. Mr. Chase left. Soon Mina and Bessie comes home, and Mrs. Harper tells of Mr. Chase's visit and intentions. Mina laughed and said she would have to get on a stepladder to kiss him, as she measured the wall with yard stick, she says 6 feet and 6 inches, Mr. Chase is no match for me, the boy I want to marry is just my size and nineteen years old. Two months later Mr. Chase calls again and asked Mrs. Harper's permission to take Mina for a ride. She consented. Mina never said a word while she was gone. Mr. Chase told Mrs. Harper about it, and after Mr. Chase left she was angry and said she had bought her wedding dress and lots of other fine clothes, and as she had been wearing her sister's old clothes and her mother's old shoes, she decided she would marry Mr. Chase and leave. A month passed. The day before her wedding day Mina visits old friends for the last time. Two girls came home with her and Mina sat on the sofa between them, their arms about her neck, and beg her to not marry, but its too late. They shed bitter tears. Next morning after breakfast, Mrs. Harper sends Mina up stairs to stay all day till she was dressed ready for the wedding. That evening she came down, the maid holding her trailing dress, and as she was looking over presents received, a telegram came, unsigned, saying to not let her daughter marry Mr. Chase. Mrs. Harper thought some girl of his sent it and passed it unnoticed. They march into the parlor between two rows of potted plants and palms, led by the bride's brother Carl—13 years old) who held three lighted candles. The last word being said that made them man and wife, the bride weeps, turns around to her mother. Then congratulations and reception, the rest dance gaily while the bride is sad. She cuts the wedding cake, takes her wedding ring and cuts round pieces and gives to the

guest to dream off of to see who they would marry, each piece wrapped in tissue paper. Bride and groom depart for depot. Reached destination, was met by grooms brother riding in carriage driven by two white horses. Mrs. Chase met her mother-in-law, there was no other guest but an old sweetheart of Mr. Chase's and of all plain homes, Mina thought it the onliest. Two months pass, Mina was homesick—sells her watch which was a wedding present for money to go home. She spends two months at her mothers and Mr. Chase goes down to see what was the matter, when he arrived that P. M. his wife and Bessie had gone to the beach, they missed the early boat home so took the next one that arrived at 11:30 that night. They arrive from beach and Mina goes to her room, cracks open the door, she saw some one was in her bed and runs up stairs to ask mother who it was. She said go and see, so she did and it was her husband. They returned to her husband's home. One day Mina was down on her knees scouring and told her husband he told her mother that she wouldn't have to do any drudgery, says I wish Mama could see me now. He said, you've got it to take now. A man will promise anything to get a girl he wants. Later—a telegram came saying Mrs. Harper was dead. Mina's neighbors fixed her up in their black dress and hat to attend funeral. As the coffin was opened for the last look Mina stood motionless, choked and could not cry. Bessie had hysterics, and Carl was silent, but later said as he looked at the corpse, he thought to himself, You won't beat me any more. Mina says, "The saddest words of tongue or pen, is not what might have been, but what **has been.**"

Mina wore black two months and it made her deathly sick, so she put on colors at once. Mina spent several days at her old home visiting friends. During the time she spoke and wondered why there was no money in the chest—and Bessie replied that her mother paid out all the cash to the Doctor and other debts, and Mina never knew any better. Three months pass. Bessie visits relatives and had wrote Mina to meet her there and said she would go home with her. Bessie needed some money, so wrote her old neigh-

bor to look into the bible she left at her house and get her trunk key and look into her trunk and get \$5.00 and send it to her. This neighbor tells Bessie's brother to go in her trunk and get it, so he did and found all his mother's money and jewelry, and writes Mina about it, and Mina received letter and showed it to Bessie and she showed her the bogus will. While Bessie was spending several months at Mina's she found a note Bessie received from a young man that didn't sound nice, and got after Bessie about it—there was unpleasantness. One day they both go to the postoffice. Bessie has a letter in her hand behind her. She turns aside slightly and Mina spied it. It was to this young man. She pretends she is going to another town to work as clerk. She wasn't heard from in over three years, tho' three months after she left her sister's house, this man had told the news about her sisters disappearance and Mina thinking she was still in that town, went at once to bring her home with her, telling her husband if they didn't have much it would be a shelter from harm for her sister. But when she arrived in that city, she went to the Chief of Police and asked him to help her find her sister. She puts a veil on and gets a colored woman to go with her to those dark places and inquires, but of no avail. When she saw the Chief again, she was told that her sister had just left a day or two before. Mina was fagged out after the hunt was over and spent the night at the Chiefs house, leaving for home next morning and layed over three hours at R———, awaiting to take another train, she spied her old sweetheart in overalls—face and hands very black, as he was an engineer, and she waved at him. He spoke and says wait till I go wash and I'll shake your hand. She says no, its time for my train. Train arrives, and as it stopped several minutes a drummer gets off the train and it was Bessie's old sweetheart. Mina greets him and says let me make you acquainted with Mr. ————, (the engineer) offers his hand but the drummer doesn't take it. Mina was indignant and says I want you to understand he is as good as you are and turns to the engineer, and tells him good-bye as he helped her on the train. The drummer talked to her on the train asking

where Bessie was. She says you'll have to ask some one else. He tips his hat and went in the smoker, as Mina says to him, "I haven't any use for spider legged dudes."

After three years pass Bessie writes of her graduation at _____ college and her grand success, and said she had such a grand husband and had a baby boy—explaining that she wanted to be sure-footed before she wrote as she knew Mina wasn't able to care for her. A few weeks later Carl, who was yet in his teens, came to visit Mina, and saw how poor she was and gave an hours performance as trick bicycle rider, took up collection and gave it to his poor sister. Soon he is head stenographer in an exchange office at 19 years of age, and kept on until he got to the top of the ladder—and years later marries the granddaughter of one of the Presidents of the United States.

Five years later Bessie visits Mina and said Mina's house wasn't as good as her horse stable. Mina says six feet of earth will make us all one size. Jesus was born in a stable, and has promised to never forsake nor leave me, though all else should flee.

Two years after Carl's marriage, he brings his wife to visit his poor sister and after they left, Mina never removed the little glass in the kitchen that her brother hung up to shave by, and would not sweep up the ashes from his cigar that fell on the back porch, for she loved them, and kept them to look at after he was gone, until the wind swept them away; and the little glass still hangs in the same place—years after, for dear memory's sake, for he is all Mina has to love since her father and Elsie died.

The End.

UNGRATEFUL WOMAN.

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A lawyer and his wife had a falling out, because she caught him in the kitchen with his arm about the cook's neck. She packs up some clothes and sheets, takes their two boys and two girls to another town, not telling him where she was goin. She took \$50.00 with her as it was all she saw in his pocket. They arrive at a new town and visit a real estate agent and secure a cheap house on suburbs—a five room cottage. All the neighbors thought she was a widow. Their money nearly out this woman sends for a neighbor to come over, as her children had visited there and were treated nicely. This lady comes to see what she wanted, but asked no questions. I went in—made myself acquainted. She was glad to see me—said I was the only neighbor she had seen that she wanted to meet and asked if I minded sending for a doctor. I told her I'd be glad to send one. The doctor came and left a little baby girl. She pretended that her 16 year old son was her only dependance. Baby died and is buried by charity. The little girls would come over and bring in wood for me, and sometimes borrow some and I shared my groceries with them, and loaned them money several times. The last she got which was all I had,—she bought wood with it. Then my husband lost his job as another man took it cheaper. We moved to W———— and never heard of those people any more until one day at the Carnival ground I noticed a familiar face and waited until she got off the hobby horses. I spoke and asked if that wasn't Helen—she said it was. Said she had been attending the A. C. College. Next day I was surprised to see an account of Miss Helen ————— returning home on account of her father's death—the paper stated he was a wealthy lawyer.

They all had gone back to their old home since I saw them. But they never have returned any money I ever loaned them, since they got possession of their fortune.

The woman often made the remark that she would some day be a Cinderilla and so she was. "Only an abbreviation."

HOW BERTHA AND BELA WERE EDUCATED.

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Mr. King, a farmer, decided to move to town to please his daughters, and run a boarding house, which they thought would be just grand. As they were poor and proud, they thought if they could just rent a fine looking house—nicer than they'd ever lived in before, they would get in swell society. They arrive in town and rent a 8 room house, bought lots of cheap furniture second handed on the installment plan, but could not afford to buy felt mattresses. Mr. King goes after a load of straw—makes four mattresses. Every thing was in order. The girls run out on porch and rock—Mr. King comes in with groceries—they put up a boarding house sign; here comes three men to get board, as they saw the pretty girls on the porch they decided to board there, they are accepted. They look at room, then leave and go up town and tell three more men about those pretty girls. They go to their boarding houses and tell lady of the house they will be out of town several days, and they go to Mr. King's and get board—and flirt with the girls, and making fun of them behind their backs. A drummer stopped over night at Mr. King's, paid up next morning and left on train for next town and stopped at

Brs. Belo's boarding house. He was telling Mrs. Belo what a bum boarding house he stayed at the night before. Mrs. Belo asked who kept the place, he says Mrs. King. Mrs. Belo says, go way, don't come here talking about my sister, but he finally stopped with Mrs. Belo, and when he left he told another drummer that Mrs. King and Mrs. Belo were sisters and both kept bum boarding houses, and the bed bugs lifted him from one straw bed to the other. Mr. King goes to market, they refuse to trust him any more and his wife gets things on credit, as the market man thought she was some other Mrs. King. One of the boarders decides to leave, and he takes a garment away every time he leaves until his trunk is empty. He then takes a hammer

and nails the trunk to the floor. He goes to Mrs. King and says I am going to leave town, but you keep my trunk (which was a cheap one) for what I owe you. Mrs. King says all right after she goes to his room and tries to lift the trunk. She couldn't and thought it was full of clothes. He was gone a month, so she decided to sell his trunk and clothes at auction. Mr. King has a drayman to go get the trunk, saying it was too heavy for one man to lift. They both pull at once and it came up and they both fell, they got up and looked into the trunk and found nothing but a piece of paper with April Fool written on it. They were dumb-founded. Next day another man came to get board. Mr. King told him about how the other man had done, and he replied that it was a shame and that he wouldn't do any one that way. He was shown his room, and sent for his trunk and took it in the house, saying it most broke his back—when it didn't have a garment in it, but Mr. King didn't know it. This boarder stole sheets, towels and blankets until he had his trunk full, payed up and left at the end of the week. Mr. King said he liked for folks to pay up like he did, until next day Mrs. King missed those sheets and blankets. A man came in that night for lodging and said he would pay in the morning as he would take breakfast there. He slips out before day with Mr. King's suit of clothes that were hanging in his room. Mr. King decides to move to another town and does—everything is lovely. They get plenty of boarders, make lots of money, pays cash for a while, then everybody credits him for any amount after they get acquainted. His bills are larger and larger until they begin to wonder if he will pay. After a year of success. Mr. King had saved up every cent he made in that town and had made arrangements to go to another town (his daughters being expected from college every day) the sheriff wouldn't let him move his furniture. Mr. King swore he was not able to pay so they never did.

Now Bertha and Bela are both employed as stenographers and are willing to quit boarding house business, so they retire from business, owing everybody that would trust them.

P. S. The same drummer who stopped at Mr. King's two years before, meets him, and the drummer not knowing it was the same man, asked if Mr. King was still running a boarding house. Mr. King says: When did you get your whiskers crapped?

The End.

DID YOU CARE?

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Lillie watches for the mailman while her parents are at dinner. Father comes to door to ask if mailman had been. Lillie says, long ago. Father went back into the house. Lillie takes a seat behind the rosebush and waits for mailman. He comes with a letter for Lillie, saying, We clope on 7:30 train Wednesday night. Jack.

Next day at school during recess Lillie sings out:

Happy on the way, Happy on the way,
Bless the Lord, I'm going to run away.

Carrie says where are you going to run to? Lillie says you'll see between now and to-morrow. Lillie, after school steals out one dress at a time till her trunk was full, it was taken out empty and put behind rose bush. Trunk being ready her beau came by and took it to station. After supper Lillie says she will go next door for a few minutes—slips out and goes to depot and a friend saw her at the depot and went and told her father. Father goes to depot just as she had started to buy a ticket. He takes her home and shuts her up in a room until he sends a telegram to Prof. Long Face at Boston, saying, he would arrive there next day with his daughter. They leave home—arrive at Boston—go to the Academy. He tells Prof. in the presence of his daughter that she must not be allowed to receive letters or company. He then goes home. Shortly after Lillie asked Prof. permission to go up town. He consents, but calls the ugliest girl in school and tells her to go with Lillie up town and if she speaks to a boy while she is gone report her to me and I'll punish her severely. They go—and at first corner met Lillie's beau. He tipped his hat, but Lillie didn't speak. Next day he sent a note, asking why she didn't speak. Prof. got the note and kept it. A few days afterward Lillie was walking in the grove with another girl. The other girl's arm was around Lillie's neck

and a handkerchief in her hand, and she waved it at a boy, who waved at her. The Professor thought it was Lillie waving and didn't allow her to go out next day. Several days later the Professor was sprinkling the lawn and saw Lillie and a boy talking with their backs to him. Professor turned the hose on them. The boy left and he tells Lillie she will have to go home. Lillie packs her trunk and leaves and arrives home and found her mother sick. Her mother thought Lillie had been sent for. A month later her father goes to the seashore to spend a month. Lillie's beau returned and Lillie was playing tennis and he tells her he is going to ask her mother for her. He goes in—mother meets him. Lillie slips in and listens to see what her mother has to say.

Did You Care

He. If we go walking in the garden, would you care?

Girls Mother. No—No—go ahead.

He. If I should ask her to be mine, would you care?

Her Mother. es. Of course I care.

He. Very well then, time proves all things.

(The girl comes in. She had been peeping.)

He (to the girl.) Well we will walk out and look at the flowers. They go, look around, take a seat behind the rose bush. He tells what he asked her mother and says: When the days grow long and the sky a golden hue, what would I do without a girl like you?

She, (sadly) doesn't speak.

He. If you cared and I dared, our thoughts would turn, as the world wheels round, out of the grayness of the blight I might ask, with irresistible tenderness, that would coax a heart of stone—regardless of your mother—Will you be mine? For win I must.

She, (blushingly.) Oh! Johnnie, I can't, I don't love you enough.

He. I'm not so sure. Its queer how things change.

She. Well, you say its a woman's privilege to change her mind.

He. If you'll only keep on changing it—once more at

least. There's something you're holding back. I can see.

She shakes her head and says: I don't know—turning toward him she says—confidentially: They say you've stolen something.

He. Great heavens—what is it—almost speechless.

She. Taking him by the hand said: Let's go out on the lawn. They rise. She stood holding his hand to her cheek. He downcast looks into her eyes—a soft commotion stirred her heart.

He (watching discontentedly,) said: It must come out—suddenly she spoke and says: i'm going to tell you—regardless—because you ask it—as it is leap year anyway—you've stolen—my heart—I did not know I loved you so. (They embrace.)

He. I am not so sure, but I'll ask again in leap year style, Would you be willing to spend your eternal days with my infernal ways?

She smiles and nods assent.

He. Well dear, seal it with a kiss. (They kiss.) Her mother comes looking them—saw the kiss and runs up to them and says: Lord have mercy—what do you mean by kissing my daughter?

He. It's my rights.

She. Well, I'll show you your rights—there's the road, now beat it away from here and don't let me catch you around here any more. }

He. Well, madam, she has promised to be my wife, and if I see her again in this yard, she'll be mine.

Her Mother. Well. I'll see. There's the road, now get! He goes. Mother takes girl by the hand back to the house, locks her up in room. When the supper was ready mother unlocks the door and lets her come to supper, and makes her promise she won't let her catch her with him again. The girl promised, and says: You never will mother, if I can help it.

After supper the girl is in parlor playing piano and singing:—

The roses and buttercups all bloom and fade—

And so did my heart when that promise I made.
You said you would always be noble and true,
Oh could I be so to you—but I'm never to be, to be,
I'm never to be your own,
But remember when you thought that my heart was a
stone—
I was willing to be your own.

He came by—heard her singing and stopped—came closer
to the window. He whispers and says, Here are the license,
come on—we won't let her catch us again until we come
back. They married—came back at 9 P. M. riding—stopped
in front of the girls house. He goes to the door—knocks—
her mother goes to the door—he says, come out and meet
my wife. I've just been married. (She hadn't missed the
girl. She went to the carriage—saw who it was—was sur-
prised and says to the girl, Its just as you said—I would
not catch you any more—but its all right—come on and
make yourselves at home.

The End.

THE VERY POOR.

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He stays at home on Sunday to oil up his joints so he can be used next week by his boss, for Sunday don't count for a poor man. He works 365 days in the year as near as possible. He has to work harder for \$1.00 a day than a rich man works to gain a hundred or possibly a thousand.

His wife washes, irons and tends the baby, cooks, scrubs, sweeps the house, sweeps the yard, does her own sewing, which is mostly calico and gingham, all for a paupers right to live. She has no time for visiting. She has no company. She has no money to spend on shows. She has no amusement. It takes all her husband makes to pay rent, buy wood and grub, which is always the cheapest he can get. You can see out doors through the cracks of the door, and the ground through the cracks in the floor. For verily they have no money to spend on carpets or comforts. He dies of pneumonia and goes to rest for the first time. The town has to bury him, which is the sting of death to "**Sweet Charity.**"

When his wife goes to church, she is gazed at with scorn, and if a rich woman happens to sit next to her, she at once gets up and hunts another seat. The poor woman is heart-broken at such treatment. The next Saturday she is in the garden hoeing and watering the flowers and she hears a faint meow in a box of straw; she goes to it in a hurry—pulled out the straw and in the bottom she found a poor little kitten about a day old. It was very cold and dirty. She runs in the house and gets a pan of warm water and washes it, gets a medicine dropper and feeds milk to the kitten, and said to herself, even though I and my baby live in a common hut and sleep upon straw beds, I will be merciful to a poor stray kitten. It shall not die hungry or cold.

The next morning was Sunday. She didn't go to church, remembering her experience of the Sunday before. On Monday she leaves her baby lying on a bed of straw, with its foot tied to the bed so it would not get off and get cold.

She goes out to get work and can't find any, then she begs people passing by and they don't notice her, so she decides to go to a large lonesome looking house, where there was only an old lady living alone. She knocks at the door and the woman comes to the door and invites her to go in and warm herself as she tells her story, asking for work. The old lady was touched by her pitiful story, and remembering what the good book says: He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out, and by the poor woman humbling herself she was exalted, for the good woman put her arms around her neck and says little woman, be of good cheer, you shall never want again. I have a plenty and to spare—my home shall be thy home. The good woman wasted no time—she goes home with the poor woman riding in an auto. When she reached the little home, the baby was crying. The mattress it was lying on had caught fire, and they got there just in time to save it, and there was a picture on the wall that looked familiar and she asked the poor woman who it was. She said it was her grand-father, calling him by name. The good woman with a surprise, said, It was her brother, and says: "Our remnant is reunited at last." They lift up their eyes and gave thanks to God who heedeth even the sparrow's fall.

The End.

THE STORY OF A GOOD WOMAN.

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Not once upon a time, but in this day and time, there are people so pessimistic and self centered, they don't even know anything good about their nearest neighbor, even after 10 years of continuous residence. What would you think of an uneducated woman, of no refinement, only two doors from yourself, who has only been seen in passing and never been called on by yourself, should ask another woman of her own kind, if she knew any thing good about you? Well, if she doesn't know anything good, there is only one reason for it—she, like the tramp, gets hers from the back door. Let me tell you about this neighbor she asked about. There was a meeting at Lodge street church. When the collection was taken up this good woman gave half of what she had and still the preacher didn't have enough to pay his expenses and told the congregation and at the door as all had left the church, this woman goes and empties her purse and gives all she had, and no one ever knew of it; but as I want to follow the question—do you know anything good about this woman? I'll tell you some more. Fifteen years ago she lived across the street from a ——— parsonage. She didn't have a cent in the world, and had just collected 25 cents for a garment she made for a woman. A poor beggar came to her door and showed his poor afflicted arm, to let her know he wasn't able to work. This woman gave the quarter, all she had, then he goes to the minister's house and was questioned for half an hour and was not helped to a penny. This woman sold all her best clothes and sewed for a store till she saved enough to send her husband to Richmond for an operation. She continued to sew years after and one saintly old gentleman who had passed many times, seeing her at the window sewing, stopped to inquire of her husbands health, asking where he was. He was told he had gone to the postoffice. He asked if he went to the postoffice the same time every day. She said he did. He said he would drop in the same time next day, and acting very familiar, while she treated him with all kindness

because of his age, though he did not consider that was the cause. She steps to the heater, pretending to fix the fire while she only smuts her fingers, and turned around familiar in return she patted him on the cheek and told him good bye, saying she would look for him the same time next day. When her husband came, she told him of being annoyed by this familiar old gentleman, and about him saying a good looking woman like her didn't have to sew, and asked her husband to be sure and be on hand the next day, which he did—and as the old gentleman came in and took a seat on the sofa, her husband arose from behind the sofa and shook his cane in the old man's face and told him to let it be the last visit to his house. Well, the next move was this: Her next door neighbor was sick in bed and she went over and cooked dinner every day for two weeks, for there were 4 children and their father, besides their sick mother, and, after two weeks, this good woman was broken down and failed to go again. When they asked why she stayed away and asked if she was mad. The children were very rude too, and killed little chickens that belonged to this good woman, the only person who ever visited those poor neighbors or done any thing for them; for which she never received a word of thanks or a favor in return. Then again, there was a new neighbor, a widow (they thought) with 4 children. The oldest child was a boy 1½ years old. They seemed awful hard up, but showed that they had seen better days. They were very refined, and lived in seclusion mostly. The children played in front of this good woman's house in preference to any other, and were often spoken to by her. One day this widow sent for her to come to see her and she went. She asked her to please send for a doctor, which she did, and soon there was just one more in the family—but lived only three weeks, and it was buried by charity. Well this good woman waited on the sick here, and shared groceries with the widow and gave her all the money she had to buy a load of wood. Shortly afterwards this good woman moved away to another town and two years later saw this widow's oldest daughter in the same town, though she had grown wonderfully fast, she recog-

nized her, and asked her if she had moved here. She said she was attending the A. C. College. I wondered how it happened, but asked no questions, when next day the daily paper stated that Miss H—— H——, daughter of Mr. H—— H——, who was a prominent lawyer of H——, had returned home to attend her father's funeral—and found out later that this supposed widow was only separated after a quarrel with her husband, taking all the children with her and lived several months apart, and since she has come in possession of her fortune, she never has paid back any money this poor, good woman gave her. Selah!

Well, some time later this good woman accepted a position in a store and done her household duties besides—she worked over a year and saved her money, except now and then, but mostly now than then, she would help every beggar that came into the store. One day a man came begging who had lost both legs. Her employer asked why she wanted to help a man who might have a fortune somewhere. She says, well I have two good legs and he hasn't any leg at all.

On her way to dinner she saw a blind negro, and she gave him a dime, and has never failed many times to give him something or else she won't pass him without a silent prayer, for she said it made her heart ache to see a helpless blind person on the street. One night she took a poor neighbors daughter to the movies, who was not able to buy a ticket, and as this good woman sat in the show, a man leaned over and says to her, I wish I were as good as you. She asked him why. He replied and said: Every time I see you on the street, you are giving money to some blind man or cripple. And she said: A silent prayer as you pass them, will do you good if you can't give—you can ask God's blessing on all unfortunate people whenever you pass one—bless others and God blesses you in return—money isn't all.

The End.



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